ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

1 - Mr. DeLoach 1 - M
1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Bishop

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

The Attorney General

June 10

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. Gale (Attenti
1 - Mr. G. C. Moore
1 - Mr. C. D. Brennan
(Attention: Mr.
1 - Mr. Glass

JUNE

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7/18/78 BY

The following facts are being furnished for your information concerning the telephone surveillance on the residence of the late Martin Luther King, Jr., authorized by former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and installed by this Bureau.

On July 16, 1963, an official of this Bureau saw Mr. Kennedy at the latter's request. On that occasion, Mr. Kennedy said he was considering the possibility of a telephone surveillance of King because of King's communist associations. He was advised by the Bureau official that since King was in travel status practically all the time the productivity of such a surveillance was doubtful and he was asked to consider the repercussions if it ever became known that such a surveillance had been instituted on King. Mr. Kennedy said he was not concerned about possible repercussions and that he thought it advisable to have as complete coverage as possible in view of the possible communist influence in the racial situation. He was told that the feasibility of such coverage would be determined and an appropriate recommendation would be submitted to him.

On July 25, 1963, Mr. Kennedy changed his mind concerning his request and thought it ill advised at that time, but on October 7, 1963, a request for authority to place a telephone surveillance on King's residence was sent to Mr. Kennedy. On October 10, 1963, he authorized this

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SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 5:32 PM
DATE 6-10-69
BY
MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

Group 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

cc in PF - Martin Luther King, Jr.

Doc #1

surveillance, and a surveillance on any future residence of King, by his written signature.

This telephone surveillance was installed on November 8, 1963, and was discontinued on April 30, 1965.

NOTE:

Because of the considerable publicity concerning the telephone surveillance on the residence of the late Martin Luther King, Jr., occasioned by the court hearings in the Selective Service case of Cassius Clay, the facts concerning the original request for this coverage by Robert F. Kennedy, are being furnished to the Attorney General.

Classified "Top Secret" because of sensitive nature of the information contained therein, the unauthorized disclosure of which could result in exceptionally grave damage to the national security.